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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of **Cheng, Doreen**
Serial No.: **09/176,171**
Filed: **10/21/98**
Title: **DISTRIBUTED SOFTWARE CONTROLLED THEFT DETECTION**

Atty. Docket No.: **PHA 23,503A**
Group Art Unit: **2736**
Examiner: **Pham, T.**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Amendment/Reply to Office Action

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply in the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated 3 May 2001.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-20, 25-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bassett et al (USP 5,706,191, hereinafter Bassett) in view of Rietkerk (USP 5,748,083). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Applicant teaches and specifically claims a network of appliances, wherein an appliance contains a status reporter that communicates a security status over the network. An alarm processor effects an alarm response, based on this security status. Of particular note, the status reporter is independent of the appliance's primary function. That is, for example, the appliance may be a stereo system that also includes a status reporter for sending reports to an alarm processor via the network. By distributing the status reporters and alarm processors among appliances on the network, the robustness of the security system is significantly improved.

Bassett teaches a conventional network of appliances, wherein the appliances are controlled via the network. To provide effective control, the appliances are also configured to report their current state, stored data, and other factors related to the appliance function. The Examiner acknowledges that Bassett does not disclose a status reporter for reporting an alarm function (Referenced Office Action, page 2, lines 19-20).

The Applicant notes that Bassett specifically teaches the use of a conventional security system 40, and does not teach the distribution of the security function among appliances on the network, and specifically does not disclose a status reporter that is